



## CHARLES BARKLEY: NBA GREAT AND VERY FUNNY GUY

By Kerry Schmidt      09-28-2008

Born in Alabama, Charles Barkley attended Auburn for three years, and as you will read later, several of his best comments concerned the school.

He was a super star in the NBA. He was voted one of the top 50 greatest NBA players.

SLAM magazine listed him as one of the top 20.

His 16 year career included MVP in 1993, he was on the All NBA Team 11 times, a nine time All – Star, with two MVP’s therein, and was a two time Olympic Gold medal winner. Once, when the “Dream Team” was about to play Panama, he was asked what he wanted out of this game. “I want the Canal back,” he replied. Also, several members of his team were asked about their upcoming game with Angola. They all said stuff re playing hard, et al. Barkley’s comment? “They’re in a lot of trouble.”

He is one of only four players with 20,000 points, 10,000 rebounds and 4,000 assists. (The others were Kareem, Wilt and Karl Malone).

He led the league in rebounding six times and was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2006.

He came into the league with the 76’ers in 1984 and was traded to the Phoenix Suns in the 1992-93 season. He joined the Houston Rockets in the ’96-97 season and ended his career with them after the ’99-2000 season.

The tip off of his straight forwardness came in an interview after a game with the 76’ers, who were not doing well that year. “We’re a bad team, man, a bad f..king team.”

A great player, but he is also known for his controversial behavior, getting in fights and “telling it like it is.”

The incidents were legendary and numerous.

In 1991 in New Jersey, a fan spent most of the game yelling racist epithets at Barkley. Finally, Barkley coughed up a big hocker and spit at the guy. Unfortunately, he missed and mistakenly spat on a young girl. He later said he did not “get enough foam” into said hocker and thus hit the young girl.

He was suspended and fined \$10,000 for the spitting and using abusive language.

As you will see and hear of his many statements, incidents and controversies, he has said the only thing he is really sorry for is the spitting on the young girl. Note: He eventually developed a friendship with the girl and her family, and provided tickets to future games.

Barkley also participated in several really good fights, particularly with Bill Laimbeer.

His larger than life persona and confrontational mannerisms often led to technical fouls and fines and created a legend for himself in many ways.

His first “big controversy” came when he declared, “I am not a role model.”

He said he always spoke the truth and that if it caused controversy, so be it.

“I don’t created controversies. They’re there long before I open my mouth. I just bring them to your attention.”

Barkley is known for his tough, physical play and his rebounding skills, and his weight.

Listed at 6’6”, he was maybe 6’ 4”, and would often tip the scales close to the maximum 300 pounds. For this, and his rebounding skills – when asked how he rebounded so well, he said, “I just go get the damn ball.”

He earned the nickname “The Round Mound of Rebound,” and “Sir Charles.”

But he could still grab a rebound, run the length of the floor and dunk the ball.



Two other final controversial bits were when he broke a man's nose during a fight and then when he threw a man through a first floor plate glass window after the man had hit him with a glass of ice.

Judge: "Your sanctions are community service and a fine, so you have any regrets?"

CB: "Yea, I regret we weren't on a higher floor"

In his summary of his on court conduct, he simply said, "I just wanted to win so badly that I did anything. I realize that was wrong."

But as great a player as he was, he is now far better known for his commentary as an NBA analyst for TNT. He often teams with Ernie Johnson Jr. and Kenny Smith in recapping games and general comments on the NBA. And this is where he really shines. He says what he thinks and does not worry about any potential after shocks. His TV work has earned him an Emmy. He has admitted to a bit of a gambling problem, but says he will "slow down. Just because I can afford to lose doesn't mean I should."

Barkley has often stated his interest in running for Governor of Alabama, perhaps in 2012. He was asked if he'd ever been in the Governor's mansion. "No, they don't let many black people in the Governor's mansion in Alabama," he said, "unless they're cleaning it."

"I was a Republican until they lost their minds," he stated.

He now declares himself an Independent. "The Republicans are full of it," he said. "The Democrats are a little less full of it."

In 2000, Barkley wrote the forward for Sports Illustrated columnist Rick Reilly's book, "The Life of Reilly." In it, Barkley quipped, "Of all the people in sports I'd like to throw through a plate glass window, Reilly is not one of them. It's a shame though. Skinny white boys look real aerodynamic."

In 2002 he wrote his first book, "I May Be Wrong, But I Doubt It," and three years later he wrote "Who's Afraid of a Large Black Man?"

This brings us to "Top 50 Charles Barkley Quotes." This was brought to my attention by "reader Scott," who for some unknown reason, lives in Iquitos, Peru, on the Amazon River. How the hell a jungle guy got my column, who knows. He insists he is not on the "Witness Protection Program.

Thus I got on the net, and herein are some of his best.

"I can be bought. If they paid me enough, I'd work for the Klan."

"We better not be playing the Bulls this year. They suck. Bunch of high school kids with \$70 million contracts. Damn! I hate my mother for having me too soon."

After he retired from basketball: "I'm just what America needs – another unemployed black man."

Fellow commentator Johnson. "Auburn is a pretty good school. To graduate I suppose you (sic) must work hard, lot of effort.

Barkley: "20 points and 10 rebounds will get you through also."

He added, "All I know is as long as I led the SEC in scoring, my grades would be fine."

Johnson again. "Did you graduate from Auburn?" CB: No, but I have a couple of guys working for me who did."

On retiring one year before the season. "Yea, I'm going to retire." Then the Rockets said, 'Well, we'll give you nine million.' "And I said, you got a pen on you?"

Discussing a rather rotund NBA player, Oliver Miller: "You can't even jump high enough to touch the rim, unless they put a Big Mac on it."

On North Carolina missing 22 of 23 of their last shots in losing to Georgetown in the NCAA tournament: "Hell, Stevie Wonder could make one of 23 shots."

"I'd never buy a girl a watch...she's already got a clock over the stove."



# OFF THE WALL SPORTS

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On the Portland Trail Blazers (back when they were known as the Jail Blazers) serving Thanksgiving meals: In between arrests, they do community service.”

When I was recruited at Auburn, they took me to a strip joint. When I saw those titties on Buffy, I knew that Auburn met my academic requirements.”

Once, CB was heard yelling at then Rocket’s teammate, 300 pound Stanley Roberts. “Hey Stanley, you could be a great player if you learned just two words: I’m full...”

“I heard Tanya Harding was calling herself the Charles Barkley of figure skating. I was going to sue her for defamation of character, but then I realized I had no character.”

Commenting on the All Star game: “Hell, there ain’t but 15 black millionaires in the whole country and half of ‘em are right here in this building.”

On Jerry Krause still being able to keep his job as GM on the Chicago Bulls: “Krause must have pictures of his boss’s wife having sex with a monkey.”

“I don’t hate anyone. At least not for more than 48 minutes, barring overtime.”

“To be successful, you got to believe in yourself. Hell, I believed I’m the best-looking guy in the world, and I just might be right.”

“You can talk without saying a thing. I don’t ever want to be that type of person.”

CB: “Yes, the did. It was easy because I was the only black person there. When they see me walking down the street, they say ‘There he goes again.’

And when I come back the next year, they say, ‘He’s back yawl!’”

Right after NBA player Peja won the 3-point contest: “Kenny (TNT co-host) said it was going to be an all-international night. I want to know which international brother is going to win the slam dunk contest.”

On his 17-year old daughter not dating yet.” Thank goodness. I just hope she doesn’t start before I go into the Hall of Fame. That way, I won’t have to kill anybody before I get inducted.”

Kenny “There’s guys who go over to Europe and play overseas from America, and they dominate.”

CB: “Those are called ‘brothers.’”

CB on Turner Broadcasting office having a betting pool on his weight: “That is starting to hurt my feelings. I don’t mind skinny people making fun of me, we all do that, but I don’t want fat people making fun of me.”

Speaking of that...

CB on Earnie and Smith eating a box of hot Krispy Kreme donuts in front of him. “Both y’all are going to hell with a first class ticket. Is that how you treat your partner? Krispy Kreme might be the greatest invention in the history of civilization when they’re hot. Y’all cruel man.”

While watching someone in Australia put \$1 million worth of rubies on a table: “Damn, must not be many black people in Australia. You can’t just leave \$1 million worth of jewelry lying around the ‘hood.’”

“Well, when I went off to college, the guys I used to hang with were pumping gas and voting Democrat. Today they are still (sic) same. Guess the Democrats didn’t do much for them.”

“(Referee) Pete Bavetta and Moses parted the Red Sea together.”

“If you go out with a girl and they say she has a great personality, she’s ugly. If they tell you a (player) works hard, means he can’t play a lick. Same thing.”

“Every time I think about changing a diaper, I run a little bit harder and faster to make sure I can afford a nanny until my daughter’s old enough to take care of herself.”

Checking my research, I have left out over 50 of his quotes.

Regardless, Barkley is a hoot. Great player turned great humorist. He is “a big, heavysset, black Will Rogers.”

Ok, next week we can talk about MLB playoffs and other boring stuff.



# OFF THE WALL SPORTS

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Thank you, Lord, for Charles Barkley.  
I've heard he's a big single malt fan. YO!